

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

091521Z Jul 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000968

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/09/2015

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS CONDEMN LONDON BOMBINGS

Classified By: Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

.

1. (SBU) In letters of condolence to British officials which were widely published in the Bahraini media, the King, the Prime Minister, and the Crown Prince condemned the July 7 terrorist attack in London and called it a criminal act that contradicted religious and humanitarian principles. The King stated that global efforts will help eradicate terrorism and that democratic principles, freedoms, and peace and security will prevail. He also praised the "joint vision" of Bahrain and the UK regarding democracy and human rights issues. Minister of Information and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammed Abdul Ghaffar told the press that Bahrain condemned the bombings and the targeting of innocent people and the destruction of public property. "Such attacks contravene all religious and divine laws and are against moral and human values," he said. Abdul Ghaffar noted that Bahrain backs every measure that the UK must take to maintain security and stability and called on the international community to intensify efforts to eradicate terrorism.

2. (SBU) In his July 8 Friday prayers, prominent Shi'a cleric Sheikh Isa Qassem condemned the attack and said that Islam requires the condemnation of any and all terrorist activities regardless of the perpetrator. Noting the international uproar against the London bombings, he called for an equally strong condemnation of terrorism in Iraq, particularly by Arab and Islamic countries. Shi'a cleric and Al Wifaq President Sheikh Ali Salman conveyed condolences to the British people and denounced terrorist activities against innocent people in London, Iraq, and elsewhere.

3. (SBU) The Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society issued a public statement against the bombings and urged people to join a silent vigil outside the British embassy in Bahrain on July 10. Local columnists denounced the attack, and some commentators worried that it would lead to a rise in harassment of Muslims in the West.

4. (C) Abdul Ghaffar, in a July 9 conversation with the Ambassador, said he was very upset about the London bombings and wanted to explore how to use radio and television in a better way to get across the message that Islam is a religion of moderation and tolerance and is against terrorism.  
MONROE